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Cleric spreading 'hate' on local TV

Geo TV. Muslim group launches CRTC complaint over comments made on Pakistani channel carried by both Bell and Rogers

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
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A Toronto-based Muslim group is condemning a Pakistani program that aired across Canada for inciting hate and is calling for an investigation.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada filed a complaint with the CRTC this week over comments aired on the Pakistani network Geo TV, which is carried by both Bell and Rogers.

A cleric on the show called Ahmadi Muslims "an enemy of all of Pakistan" and accused the group of blasphemy during a Dec. 22 program, according to the group and news reports.

Safwan Choudhry, a spokesman for Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, said the cleric also accused Ahmadis and Jews of planning the attack in Peshawar that killed at least 140 people, most of them children. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack.

The group is worried the comments could fuel violence by extremists in both Canada and Pakistan, Choudhry said.

"That is a very dangerous statement coming to Canada," he said.

Calling the comments "obnoxious and false accusations," Choudhry said the CRTC should keep a closer eye on foreign broadcasters airing in Canada.

The program — aired in Urdu — was hosted by controversial figure Aamir Liaquat.

"We very much respect, appreciate and live by our Canadian values, which are freedom of expression," Choudhry said, adding that his group is not demanding the cancellation of Geo TV. "But there need to be guidelines in place that say: Are we allowing networks to be aired in Canada that are contrary to our Canadian values and beliefs? In this case, inciting hate is."

The CRTC told Metro it has received six complaints about the program and that it would respond to each individually. But a spokeswoman also said foreign broadcasters operate "under the laws and regulations in place in their respective countries of origin," adding that Canadian service providers are "not generally involved in any programming decisions."

In Pakistan, Geo TV apologized for the program after the comments made national headlines. Pakistan's broadcast regulator condemned Geo TV for violating its code of conduct and said it could be subject to penalties.

Toronto Muslims have filed a CRTC complaint over remarks Pakistani TV host Aamir Liaquat made on his show, which is broadcast here. COURTESY GEO TV

NEW YEAR'S TREAT: CANADA VERSUS U.S.

Two of the world's best junior players face off in a "private battle" Wednesday and, while Canadian hockey fans are pumped, Americans fans not so much. Stories, pages 2 and 15. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL CORPUS/METRO

Learning to love winter

Before coming to Canada from Rwanda, Metro's Gilbert Ngabo thought gloves were only for manual labour PAGE 7

'Senseless mass murder' leaves 9 dead in Edmonton

Two children among dead in what police say is an incident of domestic violence PAGE 5

Should old acquaintance be forgot...

Metro is taking Thursday off, and we wish all our readers a happy New Year. Look for us again on Friday

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World juniors practically ignored in United States

Canadian fans cheer as the Czech Republic plays Denmark in the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto on Monday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Non-event.' Even Detroit's Hockeytown Cafe finds little reason to screen tournament

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While many Canadians will be glued to their televisions for Wednesday's world junior hockey match against the U.S., our neighbours south of the border will likely give the game — and the entire tournament — a collective shrug.

"I had never even heard of the world juniors until I moved to Canada," said Chris Eggers, a Boston ex-pat now living in Toronto. "It's basically a non-event."

Eggers says that if Americans mention the tournament at all, it's usually to complain about NCAA football being pre-empted.

Even in a celebrated hockey town like Detroit, interest in the world juniors is tepid.

"Not really," a staff member at the city's Hockeytown Cafe replied when asked if customers show up to watch the games. "We're really more about local events."

It's the same story online.

On Google, English search volume for the tournament is 30 times higher in Canada than in the U.S. Ditto for Twitter, where 61 per cent of references to the world juniors originated in Canada, compared to 19 per cent from the U.S.

Even if the U.S. manages to beat Canada in the showdown, Eggers doesn't expect his compatriots to celebrate.

"It'll be the same reaction as America winning the Little League World Series," he said. "It's like, 'Good for those kids.'"

MORE WORLD JUNIORS COVERAGE, PAGE 15

World juniors primer

Junior players (think future NHL stars) from around the world are competing in the tournament, with games played in Toronto and Montreal.

- Team Canada is undefeated at the top of its group, while Team U.S.A. sits in second place.
- Wednesday marks the end of preliminary play, with all games set for Jan. 2 to Jan. 5 happening at the Air Canada Centre.

Wrong kind of snow bird causing trouble at Pearson International

Snowy owls are flocking to Toronto for the second year in a row and making themselves at home at local airports, provoking safety concerns.

Fourteen owls were trapped at Toronto Pearson International Airport in December, double the number captured during the same month last year, said Rob Shevalier, vice-president of Falcon Environment Services Inc., the company in charge of wildlife management at the airport.

The invasion of "snowies" travelling south en masse is called an irruption, Shevalier said. The term is used when birds migrate outside their normal range.

Airports are attractive to the majestic birds, given their tundra-like topography and large population of tasty rodents that huddle close to runways for warmth, Shevalier said.

"The snowy owls can reach up to five pounds. A jet engine can only withstand up to 4.8 or five pounds of bird, so they are a threat to aircraft," he said.

That's why airports hire companies such as Falcon, which also acts as a consultant for Billy Bishop airport.

The company found owls began showing up in early October, Shevalier said.

Through the winter, three wildlife-control officers haze the birds with noise and passing cars from an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset.

Pearson also has 12 raptor traps to capture troublesome owls. Shevalier said the company catches them live, records their sex and age, tags them and relocates them up to 70 kilometres away.

A larger than usual number of snowy owls have been trapped at Pearson airport this month. SEBASTIEN BOZON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"Usually, we get about a two-per-cent return rate," Shevalier said.

Each year there are about 6,000 bird strikes in the U.S. and about 1,500 in Canada. The issue drew public attention when a plane crashed into the Hudson River in 2009 after hitting a flock of geese.

Last year's irruption was the result of a spike in owl births, said Ralph Toninger, manager of habitat restoration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The probable cause of this year's irruption is a decline in the population of lemmings, the snowy owl's preferred prey, he said.

Shevalier said snowies have been spotted as far south as the Bahamas, a dangerous place for a creature without sweat glands arriving exhausted by the long trip.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cabbagetown

Dad's dynamite found during home cleanup

Toronto police dispatched the bomb squad to remove explosives from a Cabbagetown home after a woman cleaning out the house uncovered sticks of dynamite among her father's belongings.

The explosives were found Tuesday afternoon at a Sackville Street home in the Parliament and Wellesley streets area.

Police said the woman initially thought the sticks were old coin rolls.

Police confirmed there was no safety concern as of about 2 p.m. A bomb specialist was dispatched to pack the dynamite and bring it to the Leslie Street Spit to be detonated. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

T.O.'s queen of schnitzel finds new palace

Karl Hubsch outside his Schnitzel Queen restaurant, which has stood at Queen and Sherbourne streets for 27 years. Hubsch has been evicted and forced to find a new location. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

'We'll get it done.'
Nearly three-decade-old institution evicted, forced to relocate

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The schnitzel must go on.

After 27 years in Corktown, the Schnitzel Queen restaurant is moving. Fortunately for fans of fried meat and sauerkraut, it's only eight doors down.

The schnit hit the fan, so to speak, in November. Fresh off an appearance on CBC's Dragon's Den, owner Karl Hubsch returned to work to find an eviction notice from his landlord. The property was being sold, and Schnitzel Queen would have to clear out by the end of the year.

It was devastating news for Hubsch, who had taken the reins from the restaurant's previous owners a year prior. A massage therapist by trade, he had no restaurant experience and only a strong passion for schnitzel when he started running the shop.

Hubsch stuck to the original recipe, and brought the restaurant online with cheeky social media campaigns, including "Get Schnit-faced" T-shirts and YouTube videos of him cooking in lederhosen and clogs.

There was "a downturn" at first, Hubsch admits, but eventually he managed to retain and grow the restaurant's loyal customer base.

"What's not to like?" said Koom Kankesan, chowing down on a plate of schnitzel on Tuesday. "It's something I can't get anywhere else, and Karl's very interesting."

Hubsch started looking for a new location after getting the eviction notice, but none of the places he could afford wanted a restaurant as a tenant, and the bank wasn't willing to bet on Bavarian cuisine.

He was ready to throw in the towel and move the operation into a food truck when he found space in a former Moss Park restaurant a block away.

Daniel Babakova serves Schnitzel Queen's massive portions to some of the eatery's regulars. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

"It doesn't really fit the schnitzel motif," he said. "And it needs a new coat of paint."

To help finance renovations, Hubsch launched campaigns on Kickstarter and Indiegogo.

He hoped to raise about $5,000 but has only received about $1,500 to date. However, the shortfall hasn't dampened his spirits.

"It just means there's less to play with," he said. "But we'll get it done."

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Ouster was no surprise: Blair

Year-end interview.
Police chief reflects on victories and setbacks of 2014, including war of words with Doug Ford and losing his job

Chief Bill Blair at his spacious office at Toronto police headquarters on Tuesday. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The working relationship between Toronto police Chief Bill Blair and Alok Mukherjee, the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, had been deteriorating for years, Toronto's top cop said Tuesday — and the sudden ouster from his nearly decade-long post came as no surprise.

In a lengthy year-end interview, Blair said he learned his bid for a two-year contract extension was denied during a phone conversation with Mukherjee precisely one minute before the news release went out.

The decision was not a shock, Blair insists.

"I pay a fair amount of attention to politics in this city. I work in a very political environment, and the politics of that decision were known to me."

If losing his job was a low point of 2014, Blair's win in his war of words against Doug Ford is among the likely highlights.

His bitter battle with the former Toronto city councillor began when Ford castigated Blair for saying he was "disappointed" to see the infamous video that appears to show his brother, then-mayor Rob Ford, smoking crack cocaine.

But this summer Doug Ford issued a formal apology after making another critical statement against Blair. After Blair served Ford with notice of defamation in August, Ford retracted the statement.

"Doug Ford lied about me," Blair said Tuesday. "I said that it was a lie, and eventually he admitted it was."

The past year did, however, bring a sizeable setback for a chief whose mandate included easing race relations. In April, it seemed the highly controversial issue of stopping, questioning and documenting citizens — a practice known as carding, which has been found to disproportionately target black or brown people — had been resolved with the passing of a new policy limiting officers' authority to card.

But a report released this fall found officers in Toronto's Jane and Finch area were ignoring the revised policy.

"It's a very complex issue," said Blair. "There are a number of things that need to be balanced. There is the public interest in maintaining safe communities, and ensuring everyone's treated properly and with respect."

Carding is likely to be an issue Blair's successor will inherit in some form when he or she takes over in April — alongside the central struggle for many police services: keeping the city safe as economically as possible, Blair said.

Blair went on the defensive when asked how the police budget had ballooned to $1 billion under his leadership and pointed out that 23 senior management positions have been eliminated over the past five years.

As for where he goes come April, Blair won't say if he'll follow the lead of other former chiefs, including his predecessor Julian Fantino, and go into politics.

Whatever he does, he's not done working.

"I've spent my life in public service. If this is not available to me, I'll find another way to serve." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen bumped from Porter flight on way to chemotherapy in Toronto

A Thunder Bay father is questioning Porter Airlines' policies after his daughter nearly missed a chemotherapy appointment in Toronto when the pair were bumped from a pre-Christmas flight.

Xenia Ulok, 16, has a rare type of lymphoblastic lymphoma — a cancer that first presented as growing bumps on her arm more than two years ago. Treatments in Toronto have gone well, and she returns to SickKids once a month for preventative chemotherapy.

Greg Ulok and daughter Xenia fly to Toronto monthly for her chemotherapy treatments. CONTRIBUTED

Because the trip is a regular occurrence, Greg Ulok books flights several weeks in advance, usually with Porter because of their sales. Arriving at the Thunder Bay airport on Dec. 17, Xenia says, she noticed something odd on her Porter app — it showed she had no scheduled flight that day, although she had a boarding pass. When they went to board, the pair say they were asked to step to the side with two other passengers. Her father, who has worked in the airline industry, suspected they were being bumped.

"I said, 'Guys, you can't do that, she needs to be in Toronto,'" he recalls, noting that he explained his daughter's medical situation.

"She just said they were overbooked, and no matter the circumstances she couldn't do anything about it," Xenia Ulok said of the employee.

The family was told to go to the airline's front desk. They left the secure area and spoke with a manager, who "felt really bad under the circumstances we were in," Xenia says.

Wanting to know why his family was selected, Ulok says he was told it was because he had "paid the least amount" for his tickets.

In an emailed statement to Torstar News Service, a Porter official said the plane was over its weight restriction, which can happen around the holidays when people travel with more luggage.

"It is policy to ask for volunteers first — with travel vouchers provided as incentive — and then it is based on fare class. Of course, there are extenuating circumstances that are taken into consideration," the statement said. "This would include people with connecting flights or travelling for medical reasons. When our team at the airport became aware of the circumstances, it was too late to board them on that flight …"

Ulok says no one was asked to volunteer, which he believes could have solved the problem. He also says the staff were made aware of his daughter's needs, and that he asked to talk to the captain and a supervisor before the last passenger was on board.

In a followup email, the Porter official noted that the policy of asking for volunteers was not followed in this instance — "The airport team is aware of this and will reinforce the importance of requesting volunteers in these situations."

The Uloks were reimbursed, given food vouchers, and told they would receive $500 vouchers for future travel.

Ulok says he was able to book an evening flight on WestJet.

Newstalk 1010 reports that Porter reached out to the family Tuesday afternoon to apologize and offered the family 10 free Porter flights.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Second suspect sought

Boy, 14, accused in violent purse snatchings

Police say a 14-year-old boy is charged with two counts of robbery, and they are searching for another suspect in a series of violent purse snatchings in the lakefront area of downtown Toronto.

The outstanding suspect, who police say is also 14 years old, is considered armed and dangerous.

Four women were attacked, and one had a gun pulled on her, in the span of three hours on Sunday evening. The first incident occurred around 4:30 p.m. along Portugal Square near Adelaide Street, the second on Fort York Boulevard near Grand Magazine Street, the third near Wellington Street West and Spadina Avenue, and the fourth behind a condo building at 350 Queens Quay W.

The boy who is charged cannot be identified under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robbie and Rogen

Bowmanville Zoo tiger has bit part in The Interview

A Bowmanville tiger shares the big screen — and the controversy — with Seth Rogen and James Franco in their new comedy, The Interview.

Robbie, a 15-year-old tiger living at the Bowmanville Zoo, spent three nights in Vancouver last November filming his parts for the film, which has been at the centre of a hacking scandal and threats from cyber-terrorists related to its release.

"Seth Rogen was right beside Robbie during the scene," laughs Michael Hackenberger, owner of the Bowmanville Zoo. "It's a scene where Seth Rogen is sneaking up through the woods to the leader's compound.... Robbie plays a guard tiger."

The Interview was released online and at select U.S. independent theatres on Dec. 25. Canadians will be able to watch the movie in some theatres starting Friday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nine Alberta killings 'senseless,' police say

Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. Eight victims, including two children, were killed by a suicidal man, police said

Police Chief Rod Knecht speaks on Tuesday about multiple homicides that took place Monday night in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police blamed domestic troubles Tuesday for the deaths of nine people, including two young children, in what the police chief called a "senseless mass murder."

"This series of events are not believed to be random acts and there is no risk to the broad public," Rod Knecht told a news conference. "These events do not appear to be gang-related, but rather tragic incidents of domestic violence."

The victims included a woman found Monday night by officers who were responding to a weapons complaint at a south Edmonton home.

A young girl and boy, along with two men and three women, were found a few hours later at a split-level house in the city's northeast, where officers had checked on reports of a "suicidal male" earlier in the evening.

A man matching his description was found dead in a restaurant in the Edmonton community of Fort Saskatchewan on Tuesday morning, Knecht said.

Knecht said it all started when police responded just before 7 p.m. Monday to a report of a man entering the south-side home, opening fire and fleeing. A middle-aged woman died at the scene.

While officers were dealing with that, police were called to a house in a quiet cul de sac in the northeast to check on the well-being of a depressed and possibly suicidal man, Knecht said.

Knecht said police received new information after midnight that prompted officers to return to the house where they found the seven bodies. About two hours later, the drama shifted to the VN Express Asian restaurant in the city of Fort Saskatchewan.

Inside, they found the body of the suicidal man they had been seeking. Knecht confirmed that he was "in fact the same male that police (had) been attempting to locate since 8:28 p.m. (Monday)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOR UPDATES ON THIS STORY, VISIT METRONEWS.CA.

The Interview coming to a theatre near you

James Franco and Seth Rogen are shown in a publicity still for Columbia Pictures' The Interview. Sony Pictures says the controversial film will open in 27 theatres in various parts of the country, from Salmon Arm, B.C., to Calgary, Saskatoon, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, starting on Friday. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indonesia

Teacher's trial hears from alleged victim, family says

The family of a Canadian teacher accused of sexually abusing three young students at an international school in Indonesia says his trial continued Tuesday with testimony from an alleged victim.

Neil Bantleman's brother says in an email that the hearing lasted more than six hours, with an alleged child victim referred to as "DA" giving testimony via teleconference for more than two hours. Bantleman, who is from Burlington, Ont., was arrested in July along with an Indonesian teaching assistant, and both are accused of sexually abusing three students at the Jakarta International School. Both men have maintained their innocence and the school's principal says the two are innocent. Both Bantleman and Ferdinand Tjiong could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ferry fire. Police expect to find more dead once wreck is towed to Italy

Italian authorities warned Tuesday that more bodies will likely be found when the blackened hulk of a Greek ferry is towed to Italy as part of a criminal investigation into the fire that engulfed the ship at sea, killing at least 11 of the more than 400 people on board.

Survivors continued to reach shore two days after the accident, amid confusion over the number of missing due to huge discrepancies between the names on the manifest and those rescued.

The fire-tinged Norman Atlantic was adrift for a third day off the Albanian coast, where two sailors were killed earlier Tuesday when a tow line attempting to secure it to a tugboat apparently snapped, Albanian officials said.

The Italian coast guard said another body from the ferry was found Tuesday, bringing the death toll to 11. Three of the victims were Italian truck drivers who worked for the Naples-based Eurofish company and had gone to pick up eel shipments in Greece. The company closed for the day out of respect for the victims.

More than 400 people were rescued from the ferry, most in daring, nighttime helicopter attempts despite high winds and seas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Norman Atlantic ferry. ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protests erupt in Moscow after Putin foe convicted of fraud

A man speaks to police as they prepare to push supporters of Russian opposition activist and anti-corruption crusader Alexei Navalny away during an unsanctioned protest in Manezhnaya Square in Moscow on Tuesday. Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's chief political foe, was convicted along with his brother on Tuesday in a fraud case widely seen as a vendetta by the Kremlin, triggering one of Russia's boldest anti-government demonstrations in years. IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AirAsia crash images agonizing for families

Flight 8501. Six bodies spotted and retrieved from Java Sea, amid debris of plane that disappeared Sunday

Quoted

"I know the plane has crashed, but I cannot believe my brother and his family are dead. We still pray they are alive."

Ifan Joko, who lost seven relatives, three of them children, as they travelled to Singapore to ring in the New Year.

Family members of those aboard AirAsia Flight 8501 collapsed in agony Tuesday as images of debris and a bloated body flashed across Indonesian television screens, proof that the plane crashed into the Java Sea two days earlier with 162 people on board.

The jet vanished Sunday halfway through a two-hour flight between Surabaya, Indonesia, and Singapore after encountering severe storms. The disappearance triggered an international hunt for the aircraft by dozens of planes, ships and helicopters.

On the third day of searching, the first signs of the airliner — a life jacket and an emergency exit door — were found in shallow, aqua-coloured waters only about 16 kilometres from the plane's last known co-ordinates.

Parts of the jetliner's interior, including an oxygen tank, were brought to the nearest town, Pangkalan Bun. Another discovery included an unscratched, bright blue plastic suitcase.

First Adm. Sigit Setiayanta, commander of the Naval Aviation Center at Surabaya Air Force base, told reporters six corpses were spotted — and later recovered — about 160 kilometres from Central Kalimantan province.

Before flying to Surabaya to pay his respects to the families, AirAsia group CEO Tony Fernandes tweeted, "My heart is filled with sadness for all the families involved in QZ 8501. On behalf of AirAsia, my condolences to all. Words cannot express how sorry I am."

It is not clear what brought the plane down, however final communications from the pilots indicated they were worried about bad weather and sought clearance to climb above threatening clouds. The plane's flight recorders and black boxes have not yet been found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston. Officers attacked by 6 teens during arrest

Two Boston police officers were hospitalized after they were attacked by six teenagers related to a person they were arresting, authorities said.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said the officers, were "pretty banged up" in Monday's attack but were recovering.

Mayor Martin Walsh said he does not believe the assault has anything to do with rising tensions around the U.S. over police conduct following the killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York City.

The incident comes just days after two men opened fire on a police car patrolling a tough area in Los Angeles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antonio Martin shooting

An internal police investigation confirmed an 18-year-old male teenager pointed a gun at a St. Louis police officer before he was killed.

- **Witnesses.** Berkeley Police Chief Frank McCall said several people confirmed Antonio Martin pointed a gun at the unidentified police officer.

Idaho

Boy, 2, accidentally shoots, kills mom in Walmart store

A two-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed his mother after he reached into her purse at a Walmart and her concealed gun discharged once, authorities said.

Sheriff's spokesman Stu Miller said the woman, whose identity was not released, had a concealed weapons permit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ebola outbreak

Origin point found, researchers feel

A research team thinks it has pinpointed how the Ebola epidemic in West Africa began — with a small boy playing in a hollowed-out tree where infected bats lived. The team examined an area in southeast Guinea where Emile Ouamouno, 2, fell ill and died a year ago. Ebola was not found in the tested bats, but the team believes he got it from them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN rejects resolution to end Israeli occupation

The UN Security Council rejected a Palestinian resolution demanding an end to Israeli occupation within three years late Tuesday, a blow to efforts to get the UN's most powerful body to take action to recognize an independent state of Palestine.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, had made clear its opposition to the draft resolution and would have used its veto if necessary. But it didn't have to because the resolution failed to get the minimum nine "yes" votes required for adoption by the 15-member council.

The resolution received eight "yes" votes, two "no" votes — one from the United States and the other from Australia — and five abstentions. Until shortly before the vote, council diplomats had expected the resolution to get nine "yes" votes. But Nigeria, which had been expected to vote "yes," abstained.

The defeated resolution would have affirmed the urgent need to achieve "a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution" to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict within 12 months and set a Dec. 31, 2017, deadline for Israel's occupation to end.

It also called for an independent state of Palestine to be established within the 1967 Mideast borders — before Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — and demanded "a just solution" to all other outstanding issues.

Foreign Minister John Baird dismissed the latest resolution as just another attempt to circumvent negotiations. In a statement Tuesday, Baird said Canada was calling on members of the UN Security Council to reject the resolution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

RWANDA TO T.O.? SNOW PROBLEM

Before coming to Toronto, Metro's Gilbert Ngabo thought gloves were something you wore for hard labour. Six years later, he's learned to embrace the Canadian winter.

GILBERT NGABO
Metro in Toronto

Before getting ready for my first trip to Canada, gloves were not something I thought I needed to own.

That was in October 2008, and the average temperature in Kigali, Rwanda, was hovering around 24 C.

In Canada, meanwhile, if memory serves, the temperature was about half of that.

The only people I had seen in gloves at the time were hard labourers, generally those working in construction or mining.

They weren't really concerned about warmth. Their gloves were more about protecting their hands than keeping them toasty.

Knowing that I was coming to Toronto for an internship in journalism — hardly physical labour — the idea of gloves sounded absolutely crazy to me.

Little did I know that within the next few weeks I would need not only gloves, but also heavy jackets, long johns, big boots, earmuffs, scarves and toques to protect me from the vicious, gut-wrenching cold.

The hype about how hard winter is for newcomers can't be exaggerated. Even fall weather was an absolute shock for someone coming from a tropical climate.

As days neared December and temperatures fell into the single digits, I kept thinking it couldn't get any worse. But every new week brought its own surprises, and then it finally happened: Snow.

Gilbert Ngabo, right, with a friend during his first winter in Canada. CONTRIBUTED

The first flurries caught me on my way home from work.

At first I thought it was raining, and I almost bought an umbrella from a store in Chinatown. After realizing it was the first snowfall, I went back out and took a few pictures.

Doesn't sound that bad, right? But, make no mistake — winter can be terrifying for newbies.

You start hearing about wind-chill concepts, snowstorms and the dangerous slipperiness of black ice, and you want out of the country almost immediately. It quickly gets to your nerves.

Suffice it to say, I missed a number of days at work that December. Luckily, my bosses, kind Canadians that they were, knew how vulnerable I was to winter and gave me a lot of leeway. Thanks, all.

I felt pretty low at times, to be honest, dreading each trip outside. Later, a few friends in the city introduced me to tobogganing and skating, and I started having fun in winter rather than despising it.

Different rules

South of the Equator, you can tell what the day will feel like just by looking out the window. In my first winter here, I fell into that trap several times ...

South of the equator you can tell what the day will feel like just by looking out the window. In my first winter here, I fell into that trap several times, seeing the sunshine and thinking it was going to be a warm day.

Some TV stations back home have taken to running weather forecasts — although no one really needs to check, since it's always going to be warmer than 18 C. Here, you learn to check the weather both in winter and in summer, then check it again and again during the day in case it changes.

Five winters down the road, I've learned — the hard way, I might add — a couple of simple tricks to achieveing comfort in the frigid weather: Dress for it and find ways to have fun.

I've come around to the Canadian way, preferring to bundle up in layers and wear gloves than to face a scorching 40 C day.

Take that, winter — from one fat-fingered Canadian to another.

On the perils of winter apparel

MELITA KUBURAS
readers@metronews.ca

When someone compliments me on my coat or boots, I always respond: "Thank you — my mom bought them!"

I'm a 31-year-old woman who still depends on her mother for proper winter apparel, but it's not because I don't love shopping, as the Anthropologie bills on my Visa statement can attest. It's because buying outerwear has become such a complicated process; I'm usually eyeing the store exit before the salesperson starts talking about Canadian Hutterite down blends.

In winter, our gear replaces our skin and clothing as the layer standing between us and the people we meet on transit, at the grocery store, or while heading out for dinner and drinks. Our coats, boots and bags act as an extension of our lives, and have an immediate impact on how people perceive us.

Figuring out if a coat fits well, looks good and is within budget is just the start.

Have you considered the fill-power of the down and the levels of the "Thermal Experience Index?" The trendiness of a brand; the visibility of the logo? What about the sociopolitical implications — I mean, buying anything but Moose Knuckles, Sorel or Canada Goose seems downright unpatriotic. Then again, I consider myself an animal lover, so perhaps I should think about the ethics of wearing fur and nubuck. Usually by this point in the decision-making process, deferring to my sensible parent makes the most sense.

Clothing as identity

"Our coats, boots and bags act as extensions of our lives, and have an immediate impact on how people perceive us."

I think what distinguishes outerwear from other types of clothing purchases is the concept of utility: the stakes are higher because a wrong choice means I won't stay dry or warm, and that can make for a really crappy winter.

A similarly utilitarian item is a woman's purse: It should be practical for a commuter — a zipper to keep the wallet safe, a shoulder strap for easy carrying. But whenever I try to buy one, I start to unravel with my own biases. I suddenly feel like I should own a statement bag. But a Coach purse screams "soccer mom." Only a manicured princess would carry Louis Vuitton. And Kate Spade seems so … conformist?

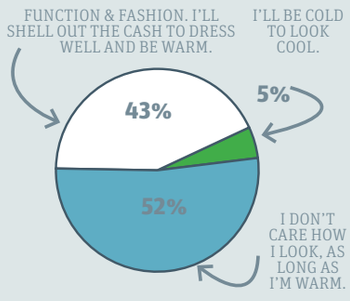
But the idea that I'm tucking away and carrying around my ego alongside my cellphone and keys is admittedly absurd. So perhaps what's been causing this inertia for the past few years are my own conflicted feelings about consumer culture, and increasing inability to separate need from want.

On the subway heading downtown last week, I saw a man in a grey suit and black pea coat wearing orange galoshes over his shoes: A quirky item that embraces winter while rejecting its gloomy monotony. I looked these up later and found out they're made by a brand called Swims, and cost about $100.

I bet there's no way his mom bought those for him.

We asked you:

WHAT'S YOUR WINTER-WEAR STRATEGY?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I'LL BE COLD TO LOOK COOL.
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5%
52%
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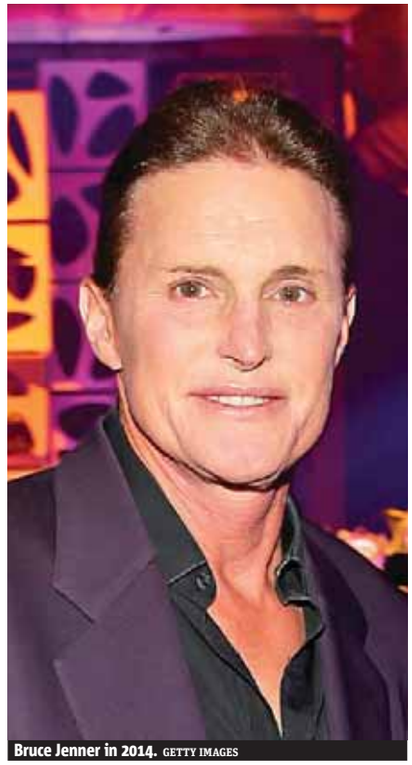
Ned Ehrbar is on vacation for the rest of this year. In his absence, we take a look at some familiar faces that, during 2014, turned out to be not-so-familiar. Here is Metro's roundup of the cosmetic surgery highlights from this year

MATTHEW LEE
Metro in New York City

Bruce Jenner in 2012. GETTY IMAGES



Bruce Jenner in 2014. GETTY IMAGES

Bruce Jenner is getting kuter than the Kardashians

We really don't know if Bruce Jenner is transitioning, and we won't speculate either way. We will say that his transformation this year shocked a lot of people and that's why he has landed on our list. Jenner first started getting tabloid attention for his change in appearance in late January of this year, but he hasn't spoken publicly about the matter. Kris Jenner was asked about her former husband's appearance and rumours about him wanting to become a woman to which she said, "It's silly. They've been saying that since the '70s."

At least one person is trying to look like a member of the Kardashian family.

Jordan Sparke, a British makeup artist, self-proclaimed lover of Kim Kardashian, and someone you should probably not trust with your money, spent $156,000 on plastic surgery to look like Mrs. West. Sparke told the Sun, "I laugh when people try to insult me by telling me I look plastic or fake. Do they think I'm going for the natural look? If I was, I'd ask for my money back."

Paying to be Justin's pretty face? Belieb it!

Bieber wannabe Toby Sheldon. CONTRIBUTED

At the beginning of this year the world was introduced to Toby Sheldon, a gentleman who spent about $100,000 in cosmetic procedures to look like Justin Bieber. Sheldon was first featured on TLC's My Strange Addiction on which he explained how he began to feel old when he turned 28, and sought youthful inspiration in the face of the Biebs. Sheldon just released a single with his musical group The Plastics.

Renee puts best face forward but no one recognizes it

Renee Zellweger (or someone claiming to be her) made an appearance on the red carpet in October, debuting a new face. At this, the online world started to panic.

When asked to comment on the Internet losing its collective mind, Zellweger was quoted as saying, "I'm glad folks think I look different! I'm living a different, happy, more fulfilling life, and I'm thrilled that perhaps it shows."

Renee Zellweger
GETTY IMAGES

Human Barbie Valerie Lukyanova. FACEBOOK

Life in plastic, it's fantastic for Human Ken and Barbie

When you were a kid, did you always dream about your dolls coming to life? Well, that sweet dream has turned into a beautiful nightmare thanks to Human Ken Doll and Human Barbie.

Human Ken Doll, whose real name is Justin Jedlica, claims to have had "over 100 cosmetic procedures." Everything from the pecs in his chest, to the biceps in his arms are implants. Jedlica explained to ABC News, "I love to metamorphosize myself, and the stranger the surgery the better."

Then there's Human Barbie. Also known as Valeria Lukyanova, she claims to have only had breast implants and that the rest of her figure and face are natural. It is rumoured that she is a "Breatharianist," someone who believes that they can sustain themselves on light and air only.

Human Ken Doll Justin Jedlica
GETTY IMAGES

Cougar Town airs on City. CONTRIBUTED

Courteney's little Town that could

Television. As Cougar Town comes to an end, Cox discusses the tough road of TV success and a title that just wouldn't take

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It took a lot of work — overcoming a clunky title, getting cancelled and picked up by another network — but Cougar Town, Courteney Cox's first big sitcom since Friends, has reached the notable television milestone of hitting 100 episodes.

But celebrations of the occasion — including a cake-and-wine-fuelled party on the show's outdoor set for cast, crew, friends and family — were tinged with an air of sadness, as even though Cougar Town is reaching episode No. 100, its series finale is episode No. 102.

"It's really sad," Cox says of the bittersweet nature of the celebration.

"This is a great group of people and we love each other, and the show is fun and the writing is great. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity — or twice, in my case."

What's in a name

"At the beginning, I think the title Cougar Town was a way to kind of get attention. It was shocking. But then it turned out to be that's not what the show was about — not that it ever was."
Courteney Cox

But despite the encroaching sadness, Cox knows how lucky it is for the show to make it this far, especially given the current TV landscape.

"It's scary, too, because you look at other shows and go, 'Oh, that's a good show! What a great cast,' and then they get cancelled after only a few episodes," she says. "It's like, 'Whoa, that's scary!'"

But that doesn't mean she's at all daunted about where her career will take her post-Cougar Town.

In fact, Cox has one very clear objective in mind: another 100-episode show. "I want to do it one more time," Cox says. "I don't have one, but I'm going to find one."

Coming to the end is of course a good time for looking back, and Cox is much more reflective now about the show and the struggles it faced because of its jokey title.

"At the beginning, I think the title Cougar Town was a way to kind of get attention. It was shocking. But then it turned out to be that's not what the show was about — not that it ever was," she says.

"We knew what this was going to be, but people were turned off by the title of Cougar Town because they didn't like to see me — Monica, essentially — going out with younger guys, that wasn't what they were hoping for. So it quickly became what the show was always going to be, but we just couldn't get rid of the title. We tried."

Now, back to wrapping things up. In the grand television tradition of cast larceny, is Cox planning to take anything home with her from the set? Some sort of keepsake? "Mine would be probably a wine glass," she offers. "I'll take Big Chuck or whichever one I'm on now."

Tracy Ullman on the across-the-pond series switch

Television. The British laughmaker chats about borrowing a country's small screen concepts

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

British actress and comedian Tracy Ullman has more than earned her place in television history after multiple successful shows based around her chameleon-like ability to take on characters — plus hosting the show that launched a little animated family called the Simpsons. But she's far from done, and she has a few choice opinions about the state of the entertainment industry.

Would you say the U.S., in its Golden Age of television, has actually just been co-opting a lot from the British television world?
Well, there's always been changing formats for many, many years. I mean, Sanford and Son was a British show, you know. All in the Family was a British show. People took the formats from England and made shows here, so there's always been a cross-cultural exchange.

When I first came to America in the '80s, there was Saturday Night Live always, but there was nothing else. I remember they brought Spitting Image to America in the '80s with the puppets, and they impersonated Reagan. I remember seeing it on NBC and saying to my husband, "They'll never stand for that in this country, because they still respect the President. They won't let that stand." And I was right, it was off in two weeks. And yet now, late night satire is just unbelievable. There wasn't a lot of that when I first got here. That was a very British thing.

What's the next big thing?

- **"Sketches are hard because people have no focus.** What's that thing that's six seconds? Vine? You look at that and you go, 'What was that? A couple of guys had a moment, something really funny, but it's gone.' So if you do a show nowadays, nobody can concentrate for more than six seconds?"

What about very American things?
We, in England, would kill to develop something as great as Friends. I love Friends. It's a lovely comfort food to me. It's brilliant. My kids watch an episode every night before they go to sleep, and my daughter watches Golden Girls.

Have you thought about doing more shows like The Tracy Ullman Show and Tracy Takes On?
I mean, yeah, I've done that eclectic multi-character thing. I'm getting older now, and you begin to think, God, what's funny? What can you say? It's tough.

It's bleeding rough out there. (Adopts a deep news anchor voice.) "Terrorism, cyber-terrorism threat, breaking news, blackened stool problems, are you allergic to this? Have you got a lawsuit? Did you take this drug in the last six months? You could die! Five things in your refrigerator that could you kill you!" It's like, good God, what can we laugh at? Don't say this, don't say that.

But there's always something to laugh at. I'm going to write something in the New Year."

Tracy Ullman GETTY IMAGES

How-to

Use travel time wisely

1. Use travel time to relax, not to work. Power down and give your brain a break.
2. Load your iPad with that documentary you've been meaning to watch or that video tutorial you haven't had time to wrap your head around.
3. Review a language app of the foreign country you're heading to (quietly, of course). Even 10 simple words and phrases can go a long way — and two of them had better be "please" and "thank you."
4. Is the flight attendant/tour guide handing out local newspapers? Brush up on the news of the day at your destination, so you'll have something to add to the local chit-chat.
5. Never forget this all-important travel rule, whether you're on a plane, train or bus: Sleep when you can.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

New

Westin facelift at Tremblant

Calling all ski bums: Le Westin Resort & Spa, Tremblant, Que., has recently completed a major reno. All 122 guest rooms have been redone, as has the more than 4,000 square feet of meeting space, the lobby and the front desk, spruced up with a living green wall. Expect natural wood details, earthy colours, warm fabrics and lots of big, big windows. Recharge the batteries, then hit the slopes — and repeat. Visit StarwoodHotels.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Deal

Escape to Portugal

Beat the winter blahs by heading to the Algarve. Gateways International is offering 14 days in Albufeira, Portugal, including hotel and airfare from Toronto, from $1,775 (taxes included) for travel between Jan. 1 and March 31. Because this deal is based on availability, you can get a little more flexibility with dates, and with airfare being the bulk of the cost, you could stay an extra week for peanuts if you wanted to. Call 800-268-0900.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

See the real South Africa

Trip of a lifetime. Groove to freedom songs at a jazz club in Johannesburg, sip some fine whisky and scope the sardine run

STEPHANIE FINDLAY
life@metronews.ca

Visiting South Africa is more than dressing up in an all-khaki outfit and going on a safari. Nelson Mandela's homeland offers everything from a thriving urban arts and culture scene to wildlife excursions on remote picturesque coasts.

Following are recommendations for planning what's sure to be the trip of a lifetime. They include a night out at Johannesburg's hippest jazz club, a store offering the best South African whisky, and a deep sea adventure.

South Africa's whisky has been turning heads around the world, and now Johannesburg has its first specialty whisky store, WhiskyBrother, where visitors can attend tasting nights. PHOTOS: STEFAN HUENIS

The Orbit

The crusade to end apartheid was fought not only by Mandela and his freedom fighters, but by musicians such as singer Miriam Makeba and trumpeter Hugh Masekela.

Twenty years after the end of whites-only rule, the music from the struggle lives on in The Orbit, a newly opened jazz club in downtown Johannesburg, the biggest city in South Africa, where living legends of the movement and international names play live music throughout the week.

The Orbit features legends of the anti-apartheid movement playing live music.

A visit here isn't just about good music and food, but also a chance to hobnob with the hip kids and creative types in Braamfontein, an inner-city neighbourhood famous for its fast pace and diverse crowd.

"It was extra motivating to position ourselves as the home of jazz in a country with such a huge legacy," says founder Aymeric Péguillan. "All people feel extremely proud of the heritage we have."

WhiskyBrother

South Africa is known for its wine, but lately its whisky has been attracting international attention. Last year, South Africa's first single grain whisky, Bain's Cape Mountain Whisky, won the world's best grain whisky at the annual Whisky Magazine awards.

Three Ships Whisky, a blended whisky, has been making big waves too — especially the 10-year-old single malt. So it makes sense that a specialty whisky store, WhiskyBrother, has now opened in Johannesburg. Visitors can pick up the best domestic and international bottles, as well as attend specialty tasting nights.

Among those top domestic offerings is the unusually briny Drayman's Highveld Single Malt. "A lot of people say it smells like Bovril," says Neil Paterson, the 33-year-old general manager, referring to a black, viscous meat-based condiment sold in South Africa. "You're not going to get that overseas."

Sardine Run

When Nic de Gersigny starts talking about the sardine run, you can't help but get excited. "The ocean is never as alive as it is over that particular time period and it's all because of the sardines moving," he says. "Whales, birds, seals, dolphins, sharks, all of them essentially following the sardines."

De Gersigny has been tracking the annual migration of baitfish from the cold Atlantic Ocean to the warm Indian Ocean along the east coast of South Africa for 12 years, taking visitors diving just after sunrise in the winter months of May, June and July to experience the natural phenomenon.

In one day, he sometimes sees 30 humpback whales. Yet what De Gersigny is really looking for is a bait ball, which happens when dolphins force sardines to form a protective, swirling sphere.

That's when the fun starts, he says. "You'll see dolphins, sometimes five or six thousand strong, you'll see copper sharks, you'll see sand tiger sharks, dusky sharks. You can also see Cape gannets. You'll be underwater and one of these things will come whizzing past your head."

De Gersigny says it's hard to overstate how cool the experience is. "It could be on the moon but people would be trying to go there to see this thing," he says. "It's one of the wonders of the world."

The art of throwing a New Year's party in Sin City

Ring it in. From ultra exclusive celeb-filled soirées to the big bash out on the Strip, Vegas gets even gaudier this time of year

A destination devoted to entertaining visitors every single day can't just throw any old party to ring in the New Year.

For one night only, about 340,000 people spending some $226 million are expected to crowd the Las Vegas Strip and downtown Fremont Street all looking to be wowed — and for that reason, casino operators, event planners, tourism agencies and more have spent months if not the entire year planning ways to do so.

The result? A veritable revelry buffet to choose from, some free, most at a price, quite a bit so exclusive it requires an invite from the hotel-casinos throwing the parties for prized customers. Showrooms will welcome A-list performers such as Jennifer Lopez at Caesars Palace, new duo Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga at Cosmopolitan and Maroon 5 at Mandalay Bay. Nightclubs promise performers Iggy Azalea and Drake, among others. And if a flashback is desired, downtown Fremont will offer 13 rock tribute bands (Fan Halen, Queen Nation, Led Zepagain and more).

But, really, most revelers will only need to look up.

Fireworks will shoot from the roofs of seven Strip hotel-casinos timed to a medley of pop music.

Groups wanting an eye-level or aerial view of the fireworks show can buy a spot inside the orbs of the new, perpetually moving High Roller observation wheel on the Strip that will come to a halt during a portion of the show. Package deals start at $2,500.

Inside, and in some cases outside, exclusive parties will be staged at much expense by the Strip's biggest properties for its (very) very important people. And with some VIPs weighing multiple invites, it's an on-going quest by casino-hotels to bring the party.

Teams of people from MGM Resorts events — among them painters, digital artists, event managers and floral designers — work in the company's 110,000 square-foot warehouse space off the Strip and begin planning next year's New Year's Eve shortly after the last one.

"Really, they're storytellers," said Lenny Talarico, director of events. "New Year's Eve, it's a show. A one night show."

Demo rooms inside the company's warehouse have 24-foot high ceilings and lighting revealing a mini version of the party to come. There are buckets of blue gems for floral arrangements, trays of moss and gigantic centerpieces waiting for fresh flowers.

The warehouse space could be a scene from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory without the candy, complete with a mirrored piano hanging from the ceiling. There's a forest of flocked pine trees down one aisle and a sitting Buddha statue on a shelf taller than a standing adult, not to mention a giant hand holding a light bulb — a relic among many once built by the team of artisans for a convention group that's been repurposed event after event.

Even the most exclusive of parties has competition with the cheapest form of entertainment for anyone within sight of the Las Vegas Strip: a seven minute, 11 second fireworks show from the top of seven Strip properties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 340,000 people are expected to crowd the Strip in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The best party is free

No matter how spectacular the party or entertainment inside, at "11:30 p.m., quarter to 12, the room clears out," says Jim McCoy, director of production overseeing all of the event fabrications for the Strip's show. "The Strip is our Times Square," he says.

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Setting professional resolutions for 2015

Career. Start the new year off right with a few office-related oaths

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

Though setting goals for 2015 is your focus here, you should always be looking at least two or three years into the future to make sure your plan has longevity and promise. ISTOCK

Though the holidays are inevitably busy, this season is a great time to pause and reflect on all you've done in the last 12 months.

But more importantly, it's a chance to look forward to the next phase of your life and think about what you want to accomplish. Most of us set personal New Year's resolutions for ourselves, but it's also important to set professional goals as well.

Need a little help? Here are four steps for setting professional goals for 2015.

Evaluate your current position

Ask yourself if you're working where you want to be, in a company you want to be in, in a position you enjoy and value, and for a wage that you believe is fair.

If yes, reflect on how you got there and what you need to continue to excel in your current position.

Are there opportunities for advancement you want to take advantage of? What can you do to make sure your job stays interesting, challenging and fulfilling?

If you're not where you currently want to be, ask yourself what you are willing to do about it.

Are there any parts of your professional life that you are happy with and that you don't want to change?

Or are you ready for a significant change?

Envision your ideal future

If you could be doing anything, what would it be?

Once you've figured out what your dream job is (if you have more than one, that's even better), start to think about the future realistically.

Consider what factors might prevent you from achieving your ultimate goals, how many of these factors you have control over and what you can do to overcome any obstacles in your path.

For example, if you aren't currently working in a field you're passionate about, look at what your options for making a change are. You may need to consider going back to school or look for ways to get experience outside of work to get your foot through the door into your preferred industry.

Maybe you don't like the environment you work in, in which case you should think about whether or not there's anything you can do to improve it or if you're better off looking for a new position.

Make a plan

Sketch out your top two to four ideal career paths and what it will take to get you to the end of each one.

When listing out the steps you would need to follow, only include things that you can realistically accomplish and be sure to consider how long it will take to complete each one.

More often than not, setting a career plan like this will extend well beyond the next calendar year.

Re-evaluate

Every now and then it's a good idea to check in with yourself.

- Regardless of what point you're at in your career plan or the calendar year, you may realize that your plan needs to change.
- Stop every so often to ask yourself if your plan is still realistic, if it's still likely to set you up for success, and if the end goal is still something you really want.
- That way, you'll constantly be motivated to work hard to achieve the resolutions you set for yourself and you'll know that you've created a plan that's giving you your best shot of getting there.

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Some like chicken-in-a-pot chili hot

Moroccan Chicken in a Pot. A spicy twist on a traditional dish makes a crowd-pleasing meal

Chicken in a pot. Not a very romantic name. Luckily, the French have the more melodic "poule au pot" to fill that gap for this utterly delicious dish.

The traditional version of chicken in a pot consists of a whole stuffed chicken poached with vegetables. All of the ingredients contribute to a rich broth, which then is served over the chicken and vegetables, often garnished with pickles, mustard and coarse salt.

But truth is, most of us won't bother with the stuffing. And that's a good thing. Because then this becomes a lean dish, one well suited for the new year as we try to recover from the excesses of the holidays.

The key to success in this recipe is to cook the chicken gently, ensuring that it stays moist and tender. In this recipe, the chicken simmers softly for just 25 minutes. Then, pulled off the burner, it finishes cooking in the residual heat of the broth. The vegetables are cooked afterward in the same broth.

Finally, the chicken is skinned, deboned and returned to the pot in large chunks, but only to be reheated, not cooked any further.

This French dish is taken to Morocco with the addition of ginger and harissa, a hot chili paste from Africa. Serve it with country bread, toasted and rubbed with garlic, or ladle the chicken and vegetables onto couscous instead, which would complete the Moroccan theme. Whatever you decide, this is a wonderful dish to serve to a crowd.

Ingredients

For the harissa:
- 16-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

For the chicken:
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 large leeks, trimmed, halved lengthwise, then cut crosswise into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound cremini mushrooms, quartered
- 1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 1/2 tablespoons finely grated fresh ginger
- 3 1/2-pound whole chicken
- 3 quarts chicken broth
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound parsnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound white potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- Chopped fresh cilantro or parsley, to garnish

1. To prepare the harissa, in a blender combine all ingredients and blend until smooth. Set aside. Can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

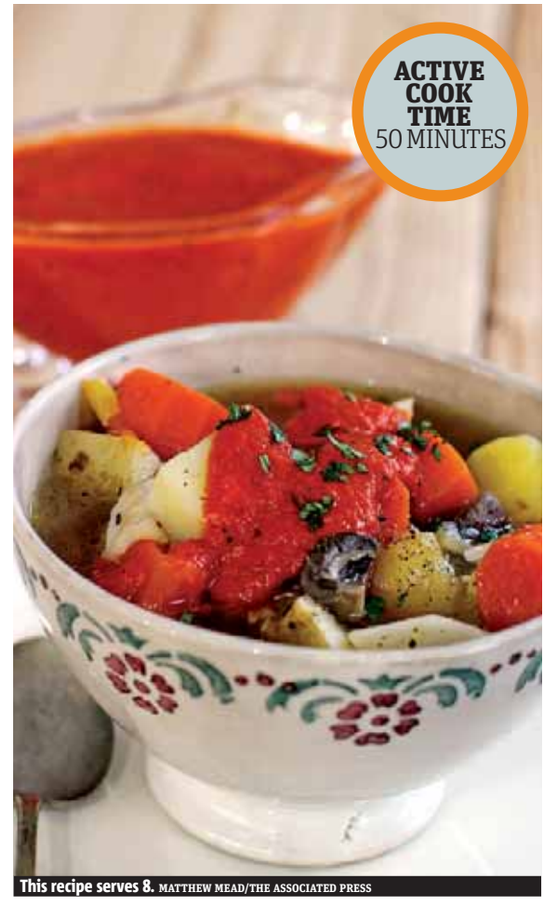
2. To prepare the chicken, in a 7- to 8-quart stockpot over medium, heat the oil. Add the leeks and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Add the garlic and ginger and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

3. Add the chicken, breast side down, then pour the broth over it. The broth should cover the chicken. If not, add a bit of water or additional broth. Bring the broth just to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, skimming any scum that comes to the surface, for 10 minutes. Cover and reduce the heat to simmer gently for another 15 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the chicken sit in the hot broth, covered, for 30 minutes.

4. Carefully remove the chicken from the pot and set it on a plate. Let it cool until it can be easily handled.

5. Add the carrots, parsnips, turnips and potatoes to the broth, then bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook, covered, until the vegetables are just tender, 12 to 15 minutes.

6. Meanwhile, pull off and discard the skin from the chicken and remove the meat from the bones in large chunks. When the vegetables are tender, return the chicken meat to the pot and cook gently, just until heated through. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Ladle the soup into soup bowls and top each portion with a spoonful of harissa and some cilantro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This recipe serves 8. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curry flavour with roasted cabbage

This recipe serves 4. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curried roasted cabbage uses a hot curry powder and balances the spice with tart apples and dried currants. Roasting cabbage brings out its sweetness, as well as a delicious earthiness for a calorie-smart dish that is downright tasty.

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil.

2. Cut the cabbage into quarters, then cut out the thick stem and core from each piece and discard. Slice each quarter into 4 wedges for a total of 16 pieces.

3. In a large bowl, combine the cabbage wedges with the onion and apples, then drizzle with the olive oil and toss gently to coat. Sprinkle the curry powder over everything, coating all sides of the cabbage mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking sheet. Bake until tender and all sides are golden, about 20 minutes, turning halfway through.

4. Sprinkle currants and almonds over the cabbage. Toss lightly to mix. Serve with lemon wedges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 medium head green cabbage
- 1 yellow onion, sliced into thick wedges
- 2 Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced into 8 wedges each
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon curry powder, hot or mild
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup currants
- 1/4 cup toasted almond slivers
- Lemon wedges, to serve

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Ross raising his game with expanded role

NBA. Summer of hard work paying off as guard takes on more responsibility with Raps

Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers runs down the predictable list of reasons for the Raptors and their blistering start to the NBA season:

— DeMar DeRozan, an all-star talent until he got hurt.

— Kyle Lowry, playing at an incredible level.

— Dwane Casey, getting his point across every game.

— Lou Williams, the offensive catalyst the second unit needed.

— And one that doesn't get too much notice but one Rivers was emphatic about: Terrence Ross, vastly improved.

"Terrence Ross was in our practice facility every day this summer, every time I turned around he was there, the kid worked hard all the time," Rivers said on Saturday.

Ross's summer work — he said he was at the Clippers' practice gym about four or five days a week to train and play in pickup games with other Los Angeles-based NBAers — has paid off for the third-year swingman.

While still prone to inconsistency, he has been far more dependable this season and has been given more responsibility.

Raptors coach Casey praised Ross' rebounding against Denver on Sunday — he led the team with eight — and his defence on Nuggets point guard Ty Lawson.

"I thought (Sunday) was Terrence Ross's best defensive effort of the year," Casey said after Toronto's 116-102 win. "That says something about Terrence and it's what we need out of that position."

When a teammate of DeRozan's stature and importance goes down, there's often one player who takes advantage of the opportunity.

"The most that can be gained is individual confidence for each player who gets a chance," Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr said of the "next man up" philosophy.

"Somebody goes down, someone else gets an opportunity and it's their time to show that they've stayed ready."

That's precisely what Ross has done, thanks to all those days in the summer, running with other NBAers and working on his game.

"He's being more aggressive, and that's what we need him to do," Kyle Lowry said of his teammate. "He's shooting the ball with more confidence and taking the shots."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Swingman

"It's not like we expected him to take up DeMar's scoring punch but he's doing well in situations where we're putting a lot on him defensively."

Raptors coach Dwane Casey, who's pleased with Terrence Ross' play after last month's injury to DeMar DeRozan. Go to metronews.ca for results from Tuesday's game as Toronto's western road swing continued in Portland Ore.

In the 15 games before Tuesday night's game in Portland, Ore., Raptors wing Terrence Ross had averaged nearly 15 points and five rebounds while assuming more responsibility in the absence of the injured DeMar DeRozan.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL all-star game

Girgensons close to sealing his spot

Five Chicago Blackhawks players and Buffalo Sabres forward Zemgus Girgensons are poised to be selected by fans to play in the NHL all-star game at Columbus, Ohio, next month.

With two days left before voting closes, Girgensons maintains his overall lead with more than 1.46 million, the NHL announced Tuesday. A majority of the second-year player's votes are coming from his native Latvia.

Fans are allowed to vote using the same device up to 10 times a day.

In line for the final two forward spots are Chicago's Patrick Kane (1.07 million votes) and Jonathan Toews (1.06 million). Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby (704,792) is fourth.

Chicago's Duncan Keith (1.04 million) and Brent Seabrook (875,868) lead defencemen. Blackhawk Corey Crawford leads goalies with 955,385 votes, nearly 400,000 more than Montreal's Carey Price.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter Classic

"Shoot it from everywhere. Red line, shoot it, eh? Skip it along the ice. Try anything."

Brooks Laich, whose Capitals take on the Chicago Blackhawks in the Winter Classic on New Year's Day in Washington D.C. With plenty of sun in the forecast, skaters might try to take advantage of goaltenders Braden Holtby and Corey Crawford not being able to see the puck as well.

Bernier out of sick bed, probably in vs. Bruins

Jonathan Bernier watched only one of his team's last six periods of hockey.

And that was because he rose from his perspiration-soaked sick bed and staggered down to the lobby of the team hotel Monday night, catching the middle frame of Toronto's 3-2 loss to Tampa. The game wasn't on TV in his room. Otherwise, he had to rely on texted updates from the Leafs' training staff.

The No. 1 stopper was felled by flu upon the club's arrival in Florida, where they dropped games against the Panthers and Lightning. That's five losses in their past six games.

"Cold, stomach, fever, everything," Bernier said, itemizing his symptoms following an optional practice in Boston on Tuesday.

He was left behind when the Leafs moved across the Florida peninsula as James Reimer made consecutive starts, but caught up with the Leafs in Tampa. He flew to Boston with the team post-game.

Apart from dropping a couple of pounds, Bernier didn't look any worse for wear after 25 minutes on the ice Tuesday.

"I feel pretty good to be back on the ice. I got the lungs going for a little bit. I think I'm ready to go. It just depends on Randy's decision now," he said.

Randy Carlyle, who delegated the practice to assistant coach Steve Spott, wasn't available for comment. Not that he would tip his hand anyway. But Bernier will likely be between the pipes Wednesday.

"We'd love to get him back in our net," said Spott. "But James has played well for us."

Reimer did play well against the Bolts, surrendering three goals on deflections and tip-ins. Against Florida, however, he gave up three goals on five shots in the third period as the Leafs squandered two-goal leads on both sides of the Sunshine State. They were outshot by a combined margin of 75-45.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jonathan Bernier is expected to start for the Leafs on Wednesday night in Boston. GETTY IMAGES

It's now Mac vs. Jack at the world juniors

Now as leaders. U.S. star Jack Eichel plays a private battle against Canada's prodigy Connor McDavid

A half-dozen or so American players were chatting with small groups of reporters, talking about how great the 2015 world junior hockey championship was and how excited they were to be playing Canada in the preliminary round finale on New Year's Eve.

Then Jack Eichel walked in and every other scrum ended. Every reporter walked over to Eichel. The smiles on Eichel's American teammates as they walked away said it all. They knew this was coming: It's time for Mac vs. Jack.

When Canada plays the U.S. for first place in Group A on Wednesday, the much-hyped game will have draft implications when Connor McDavid faces off against Eichel.

Think about when Team Canada and Nathan MacKinnon played Team USA and Seth Jones two years ago in Ufa, Russia. Then multiply it exponentially.

"It's big hype, those two going head to head," said McDavid linemate Jake Virtanen. "I'm looking forward to see how they do against each other. I know Connor will do great."

Canada's Connor McDavid, right.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Americans say the same of Eichel.

"I've known Jack a long time. He's the type of player who steps up at big times," said American defenceman Noah Hanifin.

Even though McDavid and Eichel played each other last year in Sweden, both were in lesser roles but now each is a leader. McDavid is an alternate captain, the first 17-year-old to wear an A for Canada since Sidney Crosby. Eichel, meanwhile, is captain of the American team.

So what separates these two?

Eichel is bigger, with broad shoulders and looks as if his body has already filled out. He is a power forward with unique playmaking ability and whoever is drafting second will love him on their roster.

The wiry McDavid is the more dynamic player, more Crosby-like. It's as if he knows where the play is going and teleports there before anyone else can get there. His only problem — and it's only temporary — is that he may not be back to where he was seven weeks ago when he broke his hand in an ill-fated fight.

"It's Canada versus the States, it's not me versus him," said McDavid.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Downplaying it

"It's not at all about me and Connor. It's a huge matchup for the top-seed in the bracket. It's Canada vs. the U.S."

U.S. captain Jack Eichel toning down the hype on the expected face-off with Canada's Connor McDavid

World Series hero

Giants' Mad Bum the AP's Male Athlete of the Year

Madison Bumgarner is the 2014 Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

The shaggy-haired left-hander became October's biggest star for a San Francisco club that really needed one in another improbable World Series run.

Bumgarner finished first in a vote by U.S. editors and news directors. He beat out Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw. who won the National League Cy Young and MVP. Retiring New York Yankees star Derek Jeter and golfer Rory McIlroy tied for third place. The award was announced Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit at Dallas

Suh-spension no longer an issue for wild-card game

Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh can play in Detroit's wild-card game after his one-game NFL suspension was reduced to a $70,000 fine.

An expedited appeal Tuesday ruled that Suh can play Sunday at Dallas but must pay the fine.

Suh originally was suspended for stepping on Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers' left leg twice last Sunday in a loss to Green Bay for the NFC North title.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocking the Music City Bowl

C.J. Prosise of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish catches a pass against the LSU Tigers during the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl at LP Field on Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn. Notre Dame won 31-28 thanks to a 32-yard field goal by Kyle Brindza on the final play.
ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

Good son. Jim Harbaugh returns to Michigan

Michigan needed a game-changer. A coach who could restore the shine to one of the college football's jewels. Jim Harbaugh could be that man for Michigan.

The former Wolverines quarterback is returning to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to coach his alma mater. The 51-year-old signed a seven-year deal that will pay him $5 million a year.

"There are no turnarounds at Michigan," he said Tuesday at his introductory news conference.

"This is greatness."

Not lately. The program that has won more games in college football history has been 46-40 since 2006.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DRIVE 5

2015 Subaru Outback

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize wagon
- **Engines.** 2.5-litre four-cylinder (175 hp), 3.6-litre six-cylinder (256)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual (2.5), CVT (optional on 2.5, standard on 3.6)
- **Price.** $27,995 (2.5), $35,495 (3.6) base, $38,895 as tested

Market position

Subaru made its name with all-wheel drive. Combined with the chunky, rugged styling of many of its models, its vehicles are often a favourite for cold-weather fans.

Points

- All Subaru engines are horizontally opposed boxers, with the pistons lying flat on either side of the crankshaft.
- Symmetrical all-wheel drive refers not to torque distribution, but to the mirror-image layout of the engine, transmission and driveline.
- The EyeSight system uses a dual camera for safety features such as lane-departure and pedestrian warnings.

The interior is roomy and the rear chairs fold flat for more cargo space.

Interesting features

Rearview camera, heated seats, satellite radio and automatic headlights are all standard; voice-activated navigation, leather upholstery and the EyeSight driver assist system are optional.

Tall, rugged and a little rough

Review. New Outback maintains its AWD reliability, but eager CVT makes it difficult to get off to a smooth start

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

I can seldom keep up with all the designations the automakers use. Subaru calls its redesigned 2015 Outback an SUV, while I call it a station wagon on steroids. Whichever you choose, it's an overall decent ride.

It starts with a 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine in the appropriately named Outback 2.5i, but my tester was the 3.6R Limited, which uses a 3.6-litre six-cylinder engine making 256 horsepower.

It's mated to a continuously variable transmission (CVT), an automatic that uses belts and pulleys instead of gears for better fuel economy.

These can sometimes feel odd in comparison to a regular transmission, but this unit is well-tuned and gives the car a peppy feel. The throttle can be a little too eager at times, and I often found it hard to get a smooth take-off from a stop.

The six-cylinder is rated at 12.0 L/100 km in the city and 8.6 on the highway, while I averaged a reasonable 11.4 in cold-weather driving.

All Outback models come with all-wheel drive, and my tester's system was continually monitoring its sensors and sending more power to the rear wheels if they started to slip, or for better control around corners.

I like the Outback's steering feel, which has enough weight for confidence at higher speeds, but is light enough to spin easily through tight parking lots.

At $38,895, my Limited model felt just a bit pricey, but it includes such features as front and rear heated leather seats, navigation, premium stereo, and HID headlights.

The interior is roomy and the rear chairs fold flat to increase cargo space. It's just a little thing, but I really like that the rear seat belts are routed to the outside of the seatbacks, so you don't get them caught when you're putting those folded chairs back up.

The Outback's rugged styling is intentional, and Subaru markets this as an "outdoorsy" vehicle, although I found it just as useful on city streets.

Put on a good set of winter tires, and it should get you through just about anything.

Compare

1 Volvo V60 Cross Country
Base price: $44,100
Turbocharged power and stylish interior make this all-new Swedish AWD wagon worth a test drive.

2 Toyota Venza V6 AWD
Base price:$33,065
Based on the Camry chassis, this crossover wagon drives more like a car than an SUV.

3 Mazda CX-5 2.5 AWD
Base price: $30,895
Look beyond the anemic 2.0-L to this sporty, sharp-handling model with its larger engine.

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Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

BMW will expand its electric options to cover its full range of vehicles

BMW is taking the technology it developed for its first two plug-in electric cars — the i3 city car and the i8 high-performance sports car — and will roll it out as an option across its entire range of vehicles. The electrification process will begin with the 3 Series, which is BMW's biggest-selling model. The 3's plug-in hybrid will use a turbocharged four-cylinder gasoline engine supported by an electric motor. Shorter journeys can be driven in full electric mode, or the engine can be engaged for longer trips. BMW says its goal of extending the technology across its core range will bring emissions and fuel costs down while preserving its cars' long-range utility and brisk performance.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Plug-in electric technology from the new BMW i8 sports car will soon find its way into other BMW models, starting with the popular 3 Series.

Illinois jump-starts Route 66

Historic but long neglected, U.S. Route 66 is getting an electric facelift along the portion of it that runs through Illinois. The state is investing $1 million to install charging stations along a 500-kilometre stretch between Lake Michigan and the border with Missouri. Dubbed the Illinois Route 66 Electric Corridor, reports Green Car Reports, the project will enable electric vehicle-travel between Chicago, Ill., and St. Louis. Mo. Eight cities will each install at least one public charging station accessible from Route 66. Normal, Ill., is already home to a growing population of electric cars through an aggressive infrastructure and incentive program. The program will be completed this summer.

Illinois is installing electric-car charging stations along Route 66.

Shift points

- China has announced a goal to have 30 per cent of all government vehicles be electric plug-ins within two years. Battery-electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids and fuel-cell cars will all be eligible under the plan.
- Electric taxis are all the rage in Norway, where EV incentives are generous. Holland is now following Norway's lead. The Netherlands' Taxi Electric program will add the Tesla Model S to its fleet of Nissan Leafs.
- Volkswagen says new fuel-saving technologies for its vehicles will include a compact diesel engine, electric turbochargers, a 10-speed transmission and a coasting function for a new engine stop-start system.

Five-door Chevy Spark breaks million-sale milestone

One of General Motors' most globalized models, the Chevrolet Spark subcompact hatchback, has surpassed one million sales since its debut in 2009, making it one of the best-selling cars of any size to ever wear the brand's bow-tie badge. The hatchback now sells in 71 markets worldwide, with South Korea (where it is built) accounting for the largest single portion of those sales. The United States is the second-largest market for the Spark. In its gasoline form, the car has the advantage of being one of only two minicars available with five doors (Mitsubishi Mirage is the other). The electric version sells about 100 units a month in California and Oregon only.

Since being introduced, the Spark has sold more than one million copies around the world. The largest market is South Korea, followed by the United States.

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Autopilot. The highs, lows and truly bizarre moments of 2014 in the fast-changing world of automobiles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

This was an interesting year for the passenger vehicle, and for the industries and cultures surrounding it. So let's take a drive back through 2014 to revisit the events and trends that made it so memorable. But buckle up! To get everything in, I've had to push the speed limit a bit, and sentences will be faster than normal.

• Good/bad year for GM. Good: First global auto maker to name a woman (Mary Barra) as its president. Bad: We learn about the deplorable delays in recalling a faulty ignition switch fitted to thousands of GM cars.

• Ford introduces the 2015 F-150, the world's first production pickup truck with an aluminum body.

• Parts supplier Takata Corp.'s decision to use ammonium nitrate to inflate its air bags turns out to be ill-advised. In areas with high humidity, some of the air bags have exploded when deployed, injuring drivers and passengers with flying shards of metal. The resultant safety recall now affects more than 24 million vehicles.

• Gas prices fall below $1 per litre late in the year — finally cheaper than milk. The last time prices were this consistently low was in 2010.

• Google and Apple make it known that they will be major future players in the auto industry, as software and hardware developers for self-driving and connectivity. Also, after years of retrofitting cars from other makers for self-driving tests, Google introduces its own prototype, with no steering wheels or pedals.

It was a good and bad year for new GM CEO Mary Barra, top left; Google unveiled a self-driving prototype that will soon hit U.S. highways for testing, lower left; and Mexico auto production set new highs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, AFP

• Ontario Provincial Police accident investigations reveal that driver distraction linked to cellphone use is the leading cause of traffic deaths — ahead of impaired driving.

• A big sinkhole appears underneath a Corvette museum in Kentucky and swallows several classic Vettes.

• Honda Civic is the best-selling car in Canada — for the 17th consecutive year.

• Several U.S. states introduce legislation that allows the testing of self-driving vehicles on public roadways.

• The last traditional panel van on the market, the Ford E Series (previously called Econoline), is retired. In a totally unrelated but equally lamented move, Tim Hortons discontinues its original "small" coffee cup size. Medium is the new small.

• Drivers continue to embrace car-sharing, causing auto makers to rethink their business model, from selling cars to moving people.

• A 3D printer spits out a complete car body. After being fitted with running gear, the Srati runs on its own power and may be available for sale next year in the U.S.

• Mexican auto production continues its spectacular rise and hits three million annual units for the first time. In 1999, Mexican output was less than 1.5 million. On the other hand, U.S. and Canadian production growth is rising slowly.

• I went the entire year with only two parking tickets. I usually get four or five.

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Cosmic activity in the career area of your chart makes you intensely ambitious but it can also make you a bit reckless and that could be a problem today.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
By all means share your dreams with other people but don't expect much support. Whatever you say they will find ways to pick holes in it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you are smart you won't take what someone tells you too seriously today, especially if there is money at stake.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
According to the planets you could easily be panicked into making a move that could be disastrous on all levels. Just because the year is coming to an end does not mean you have to speed things up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You don't have to work harder and longer to get something completed before the new year begins. There is no reason why you should work yourself into the ground.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you feel tied down by obligations you would prefer not to have then now is the time to do something about it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be careful when listening to what other people tell you, because they may not be telling you the whole truth.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A lot of people will do a lot of silly things today but there is no reason why you should join in the madness. Aim to do the opposite of what everyone else is doing.

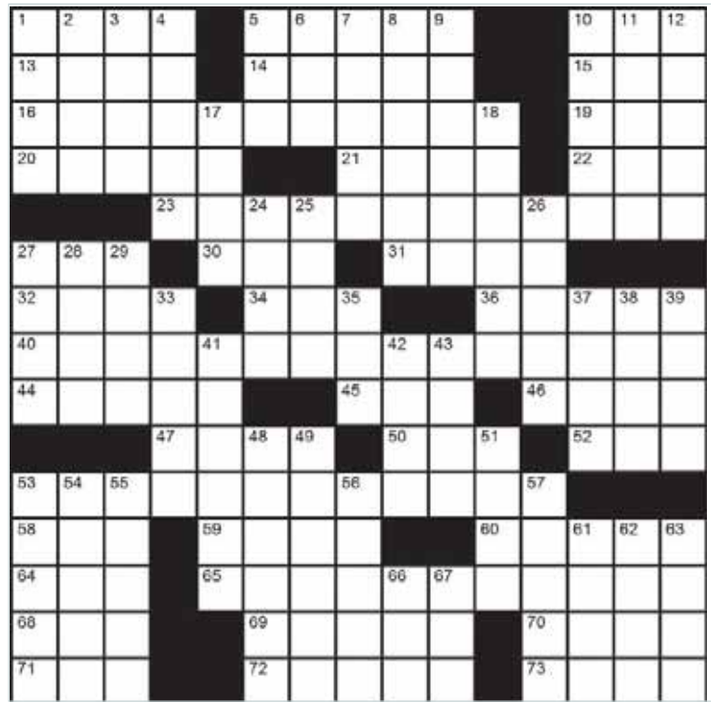
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Give yourself a break and let other people do the heavy lifting. It is unlikely you will get much of any real value done today, so you might as well sit back and watch.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No one is out to get you, so stop looking over your shoulder at every turn. The state of mind you begin the new year in is the state of mind that will stay with you throughout 2015.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Anyone who approaches you with a plan they insist will make you rich and famous must be politely but firmly shown the door.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't let friends or relatives pressure you into doing something you don't care for today. See in the new year the way you want to see it in.

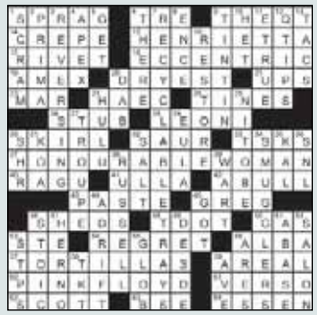
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Scottish slope
5. Great hockey goalie Dominik
10. Poke fun
13. 1788 poem by #12-Down, __ Lang Syne
14. The Gershwins musical, __ __ and Only
15. Univ. url ending, e.g.
16. Toronto-born singer of "Life of the Party": 2 wds.
19. Horizontal opp.
20. Singer, Tennessee __ Ford
21. Canadian music award
22. 'Jacob' suffix
23. "ET Canada's New Year's Eve at __ __"
27. "Alice" boss
30. Irish coronation stone, __ Fail
31. __'acte (Intermission)
32. Time __ __ the essence
34. Not wet
36. States: French
40. When the clock does this, it's time to exclaim "Happy New Year!": 2 wds.
44. "Not __ _ know of..."
45. Leafs arena, commonly
46. Certain currency
47. Business names abbrs.
50. Ms. Gardner
52. "Sure!"
53. What's hot and what's not feature each New Year: 4 wds.
58. Bert Bobbsey's twin
59. Dodge car of yore
60. Ancient Greek colony
64. Quebec turndown
65. Easy-to-manage party snacks: 2 wds.
68. Australian bird
69. McCain cake, __ '_ Delicious
70. Eruption's emission
71. Flange
72. Antiperspirant brand
73. "Old __" by Elvis

Down
1. Foundation
2. German industrial region
3. Mr. Rickman
4. Single-named Canadian singer
5. "Let me think..."
6. Sailor's 'yes'
7. Canadian actress Ms. Smits
8. Prevail
9. Actor Mr. Wynn
10. Party hearty
11. Best
12. Scottish poet Robert
17. Mr. Young
18. Cushion
24. Parliament Hill worker
25. Long-snouted fishies
26. FOX's "Glee" character
27. Spray
28. Bible book, e.g.
29. City of Spain, __ del Rio
33. Belong: 2 wds.
35. Singer Ms. Sumac
37. "_ __ Named Joe" (1943)
38. Drive-__
39. Street sign
41. In a way: 2 wds.
42. 'Alphabet' suffix
43. Gladiator's 606
48. Food: Spanish
49. One soaking up the rays
51. "Like, that's ever going to happen.": 2 wds.
53. Outer's opposite
54. Ms. Watts
55. Per __ (Yearly)
56. Giant __ (Canadian discount store)
57. Workshop items
61. Ark's architect
62. '50s song: "If I Knew You Were Comin' __ Baked a Cake"
63. CEO's "Quick!"
66. Prefix to 'centre'
67. Circular, curtly

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	7	5	8	4	3	6	1
5	3	6	2	1	9	8	4	7
1	4	8	6	7	3	9	5	2
8	6	2	7	9	1	4	3	5
7	9	3	4	2	5	1	8	6
4	1	5	3	6	8	7	2	9
2	5	9	8	4	7	6	1	3
3	7	4	1	5	6	2	9	8
6	8	1	9	3	2	5	7	4

	5				4	2		
9		1			6			
	8			5				4
							6	7
		5				1		
4	3							
7				6			8	
			9			7		3
		2	1				4	

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